

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A non-woven protective garment according to claim 1, wherein the phase change materials have melting points in the range between 20 °C and 60 °C.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A non-woven protective garment according to claim 1, wherein the phase change materials have melting points in the range between 25 °C and 35 °C.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A non-woven protective garment according to claim 1, possessing a latent heat storage capacity between 40 kJ and 60 kJ.

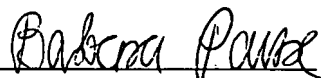
REMARKS

In the Office Action dated March 8, 2007, the examiner rejected Claims 1-5, 7 and 12-21 being unpatentable over the art of WORLEY et al. (US 2003/0054141). However, in the art of Worley et al. the phase change material dispersed in the coating compound is microencapsulated in order to prevent dissolution while in its liquid stage [0044 and claim 3]. Despite, in the proposed application the phase change material is cross-linked into the structure of the elastomeric carrier material and, therefore, does not need to be microencapsulated. [disclosed on page 6 of the application]. Applicant has amended the independent claim no. 1 to indicate that the phase change materials of the claimed invention are not microencapsulated.

The art of BUCKLEY (US 2002/0164474) teaches a continuous layer of bulk phase change material which is encapsulated within another material (claim 8) and is arranged between other layers. Despite, in the proposed application the phase change material is not used in a bulk layer. In the proposed application the phase change material is finely divided into an elastomeric carrier material and is cross-linked wherein. No external enclosure is necessary in the proposed application, because the phase change material will not leak out of the elastomeric material while in its liquid stage.

The claims as amended are now believed to be in condition for allowance and early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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